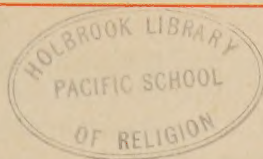



MARCH 1950



 BIBLE
SOCIETY

Record



Greek soldiers examining New Testaments just received from the American Bible Society. Unopened cartons in the rear
(Story on page 39)

Hope of All

SEVERAL hundred thousand people have already received a sheet of the bright red-and-blue 1950 Seals pictured on this page. Many have already sent their first gift to the American Bible Society; others have renewed or increased their gift of a previous year. Quite a number have contributed, and have also helped interest others in giving to send the Scriptures to the world.

The letter accompanying the Seals again this year bears the signature of one of the Society's Vice Presidents, Dr. John R. Mott. There were so many favorable comments and such encouraging responses from Dr. Mott's letter of last year, that this great elder statesman of the Protestant Churches was the obvious selection to sign the letter with the Society's twelfth annual Seal appeal. He accepted this responsibility graciously, and his 1950 letter reads as follows:

The world was never so hungry . . .

A man in Korea pleads, "Send us Bibles. All of our books teach us to be slaves of a state . . . except the Bible."

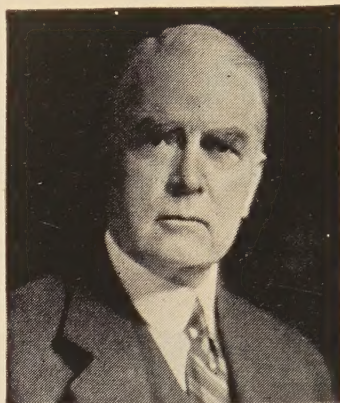
Beneath a tree in Africa a voice reads slowly, and young faces glow at the message of hope.

The doorbell of the Society's Secretary in the Philippines rings at four in the morning, and an eager voice inquires, "I heard some Bibles came in yesterday—is there one for me?"

People are hungry . . . Empty stomachs must be fed, naked bodies clothed, homes rebuilt . . . BUT . . . people also want another kind of bread . . . They want to know how to face tomorrow . . . Man does not live by bread alone.

So the world in its hunger is reaching out for God's Book—the Book which inspired the Magna Charta and

the Declaration of Independence . . . the Bible, which has ever held out the faith that teaches men to live together in brotherhood and peace.

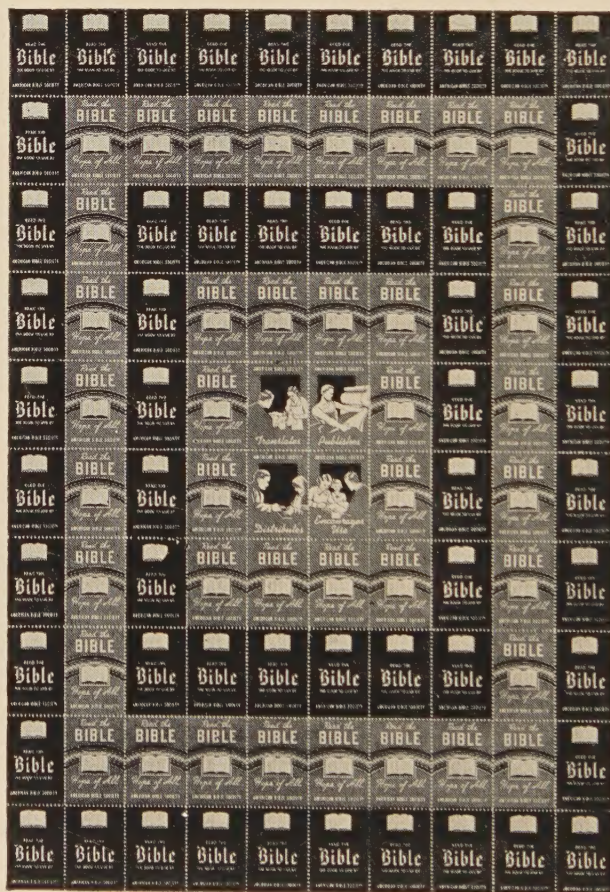


Dr. Mott

well mean one or more people will come to know Christ; your gift may determine the kind of world in which our children will live.

Sincerely yours,

John R. Mott, for the Society.



This year's Seals are arranged in an interesting design, with the four center Seals depicting the major phases of the Society's work—translation, publication, distribution and encouragement of use of the Bible. The blue Seal shows a rainbow behind an open Bible as it calls to mind God's covenant with man. Below are the words "Hope of All." The red Seal carries beneath an open Bible the 1949 Worldwide Bible Reading slogan, "The Book to Live By." Many friends use these Seals on their letters, or hand a sheet to a friend to help interest him in giving the Scriptures. Our readers are requested not to return the Seals, as their cost is less than the 4c postage re-

(Continued on page 43)

Bible Society Record

A JOURNAL DEDICATED TO THE WIDER DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF THE
HOLY SCRIPTURES

VOLUME 95 MARCH • 1950 NUMBER 3

Facts Concerning Scripture Supply For Japan

DONORS to the Society's work for Japan can well take satisfaction in the achievements of their efforts. Here in a land stricken by war and where defeat and the discovered emptiness of their national religion have left millions of people seeking some sure basis of life, there have been distributed in the last four years some 4,000,000 copies of the Scriptures. The combined efforts of the American and Japan Bible Societies, supported by our donor Churches and people, have done this.

"Distributed"—? By "distributed" the Bible Societies mean that most of the Scriptures circulated have been *sold*; that is, that most of the persons receiving the Scriptures have wanted them, or been able to want them enough to purchase them. This is the best way on any widespread scale to ensure that the Scriptures will be read seriously. The purchaser has made an investment and expects to get value from it. Overwhelmingly—the Scriptures issued by the Bible Society have been sold—far and away the greatest part of the 159,000 Bibles, 2,000,000 Testaments, and 1,800,000 Gospels, etc. to postwar Japan. To sell is harder than to give away, for there must be more people employed, trained, supervised; more office and field work. But it is worth its cost. The President of the Japan Bible Society has said that Japanese people are suspicious of literature freely handed out. Moreover, when one has to persuade people that the book is worth purchasing, personal testimony of the value of the Scripture is given—often to one who has no real idea of what the Bible means for human life.

When the Bible Societies say the Scriptures have been "sold", that is not saying that the purchaser has paid the full costs. In Japan the present income of the people is so low that the full cost of printing and selling a book will generally be a serious barrier to those who would otherwise purchase. So the Bible Societies price their Scriptures close to the cost of printing and binding alone, often much below that cost, and then meet from the gifts of Bible donors the "distribution costs"—transportation, wages, commissions, discounts to Bible sellers and stores, and the

like. Their gifts also pay for Scriptures donated to those eager for them but unable to purchase. Sales income may eventually cover much of manufacturing cost, but unless there are gifts to pay distribution costs, the Scriptures will not reach the people. None of the sales income in Japan comes back to our Society, but is used there by the Japan Bible Society for printing and distributing more Scriptures.

Another reason for donors' satisfaction is that, in this great distribution of 4,000,000 Scriptures, 2,000,000 were whole New Testaments. No one should underestimate what a copy of a Gospel may do in a reader's hands; but an investment in a Testament is a larger investment—it is less likely to be discarded casually, likely to be read by more people because it lasts longer, is better bound. The Bible Societies will continue to issue millions of Gospels, but rejoice even more over the effective distribution of millions of Testaments and tens of thousands of whole Bibles.

The results here set forth are not an accident. Our Society made its first grant for Scriptures in Japanese in 1837 and has been at work in Japan itself since 1876. With its allies, the British and Foreign Bible Society and the Japan Bible Society, through which they now work, go long experience, intimate knowledge of the Japanese people and their life, and the fullest confidence of the missionaries and Christian Churches in Japan. In the face of the present great opportunity these tested methods must be continued and reinforced.

There is great need for a strong advance because the opportunity is larger—in terms of open doors to Japanese minds and hearts—than ever in Japan's history, and larger than the missionaries and the Churches can meet. But the vigorous expansion of the distribution of the Scriptures can reach literally millions of people; 3,000,000 volumes is the goal for 1950, 5,000,000 for 1951. This can prepare the way, plant the seed and bring to millions their first real knowledge of Jesus Christ. In the gaining of this knowledge and its growth lies the hope of their salvation and that of their country.

Michio Sells No More Fruit

A story based on Actual Incidents reported from the Continuing Interest in the Bible in Postwar Japan

BY FRANCIS C. STIFLER

WELL, Pal, why don't you rent the store and keep out of the rain and wind?"

Michio Haruta was sitting at a little home-made table in the entrance to a vacant shop on the Ginza, Tokyo's Broadway. He matched wits with wits as Shiro Tanaka taunted him.

"Because I want to catch easy marks like you. You would never have entered the store."

"Don't you sell fruit any more? What are your books, anyhow—how much are they?" asked Shiro more seriously.

Michio Haruta had always been an energetic, resourceful lad. For two or three years he had set up his stand in some profitable spot and sold fruit in season. His father worked in one of the big banks, but since the war that didn't mean what it might indicate as to the family's finances.

"I've got something better here than fruit. I'm selling the New Testament."

"Looks like the book I saw them selling down at the railroad station," said Shiro. "A long line of people, like the breadlines during the war, were buying a fellow out there, as they waited for their trains."

"Yep, same book."

"Must be a big profit in it, eh?"

"No profit at all. We all sell them at cost."

"Have you gone nuts? If everybody wants the book, why not cash in on it?"

"Well, Shiro, if you've got a minute, sit down on this box here and I'll tell you a little about it. I wonder, first of all, if you know what the New Testament is?"

"Nope—sounds like some kind of a law book."

Michio smiled. "It is a law book, but not the kind you think it is. It tells of the law of love and how God gave it to men."

"A book on religion, eh." Shiro began to shuffle off his box, as though he had heard enough and would take his leave.

"Now sit down, Shiro. Let me tell you about how I came to sell these books instead of fruit. During the war my father shared with everybody else the idea that America's religion, Christianity, was only for the unfortunate who need solace and comfort—a religion for weaklings. But he also knew, if the United States won the war, the army of conquerors wouldn't act like sissies. He knew what all conquering armies were like—cruel and heartless."

"And then the Americans did win," Michio went on. "Father prepared for the worse. But the strange thing was, the worst never happened. One day a big, strapping American Army officer strode into dad's

bank. He was followed by a squad of men. As dad put it to us at home that evening, everybody stiffened up as much as to say, 'Well, here it comes.' The usher led the officer to the president's desk. Everybody's heart stood still, but there was no rattle of swords—no stern commands; instead, a cordial greeting and a smile.

"That was how the Occupation began for my dad. He's had his bumps in life and isn't the kind to jump to conclusions. For days after that first contact with the Americans, dad was skeptical. 'There must be an iron fist behind all these smiles and friendly acts,' he kept saying to us at home.

"In some ways things were getting worse for our family—well, you know yourself, Shiro, how after the surrender and before American supplies began to arrive in abundance, there was hardly anything in the stores, and money was practically useless.

"One day when mother had practically nothing to give us for supper, a big American Army truck stopped at a market near our house. They began to unload and set up a distribution-station of their Army rations for people who needed things.

"When dad got home that night, I wish you could have seen his face as mom told him about the truck and showed him the things which had been allotted her.

"Then a few days afterward, we saw two American soldiers—they call them G.I.'s but I don't know why—helping the family across the street repair their house, which had been damaged in one of the last air raids. It was the first time I had ever seen an American soldier up close. I went over to watch them. They couldn't believe my eyes; one of them was a Japanese. He was talking English to his buddy, but when he spied me, he greeted me in Japanese. I don't think he was much older than I am—eighteen, maybe. He put me at ease right away, so we began to talk quite naturally. I asked him if he were a house builder by profession. He broke out in a hearty laugh. No, he had never made as much as a hencoop. He was a city boy from San Francisco. I asked him if he'd been assigned to the task of rebuilding damaged houses in Tokyo. He laughed again. No, it was his day off and he and his buddy saw so much misery and need everywhere, they thought they might just as well pitch in and help out a bit.

"Well, after supper that night while I was telling dad about these two American soldiers, someone knocked at the door. It was an American woman. We'd often seen her on the street. She ran a Christian school not far from where we lived—mostly for little

children—a kindergarten, you know.

“Miss Topping—that was her name—had come to invite us to a Bible class. She was holding at her house. Of course pop was very courteous and polite to her, but I noticed that he didn’t say right out he’d go.”

“After Miss Topping left, dad asked my sister and me to sit down with himself and mom. I could see something serious was on his mind. This is about what he said:

“‘You know, I’d like to have us all go over to Miss Topping’s tomorrow night.

I’m beginning to think that the unbelievable is true. There is too much evidence to stand up against. These Americans are not here to exploit us; they are here to help us. They are evidently trying to build a better Japan for us. Maybe we have listened to our Thought-Police too long. I’m about convinced that what the Americans told us in the leaflets they dropped from the air during the war was the truth!’

“Well, Shiro, that first evening at the Topping’s was a revelation. Miss Topping and a couple of other Americans there could talk Japanese just as well as you and I can. That was six months ago. We’ve been to that Bible class every week since. They gave us two copies of this New Testament—”

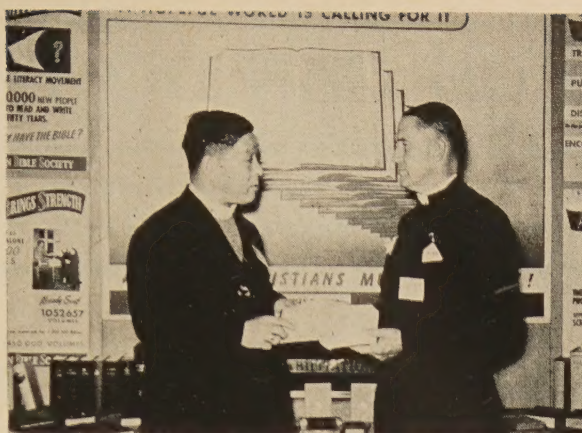
Shiro broke in—“Well, just what is it?” He picked up a copy and began to thumb it through. As it happened, he stopped and began to read at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount. He read about five verses out loud. Shiro was a brilliant lad. His quick mind responded to what he read.

“Boy, that’s sensible stuff,” he said with genuine animation. “I’d like a copy myself. Can I have one, Michio? I haven’t any money just now but if you’ll trust me, I’ll give you five yen for it next Saturday.”

“Oh, you don’t need to give me that much,” said Michio. “I’m asking only two yen—that’s what the Japan Bible Society says it costs to handle them.”

“Who is the Japan Bible Society?” asked Shiro.

“Haven’t you ever seen their grand six-story building down on the Ginza, right next to the Telephone Exchange? The Americans put up that building and stocked it with Japanese Bibles and New Testaments way back in 1933. They have a great Bible Society over in their own country that is almost as old as their nation is. Miss Topping told us all about it. She said that the Bible is the book that has made America the kind of nation it is. She said that the American Bible Society distributes ten million copies of the



At the Society’s display at the Triennial General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church, on October 1, 1949, Treasurer Darlington discussed Japan’s need for Scriptures with The Most Reverend Michael Hinsuke Yashiro, Primate of Japan, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church there. Bishop Yashiro later visited the Bible House in New York

Bible, New Testament and other parts of the Bible in more than fifty countries every year.”

“Now, wait a minute, Michio. They’ve been stuffing you! How could all these fifty countries read this book if it was only in English and in Japanese? What good would it be in Siam or Russia?”

“That’s just it, Shiro. I went down to the Bible House and had a long talk with one of the men there. He told me that the American Bible Society and a similar, even older Society in London had helped missionaries all over the world

to translate the Bible or some part of it—usually the New Testament—into hundreds of languages. I got to feeling that here was a book that could bring the whole world together if everybody would read it.

“I went back a second time to talk to the man at the Bible House. I guess because he saw I was so interested, he asked me if I didn’t want to help distribute the copies. He said that General MacArthur was a regular daily reader of the Bible and had cabled the American Bible Society in New York, expressing his hope that they would continue to help the Japan Bible Society till every city, village and hamlet in Japan would have plenty of copies of it.

“So, pop and mom and sis and I are now all members of the Christian church that Miss Topping took us to. There are a lot of American soldiers helping there. We have to have these services every morning, and two more at night, to seat all who want to come. Pop has organized a Bible-study class down at the bank. They meet every Friday after work and almost everybody, from the president down, attends. And that’s how I quit selling fruit! Here’s your New Testament. Now I’ve got to take care of all these other people who have been waiting while I told you my story. Read your new book, Shiro, every day, won’t you?”

An Item of Advance in Japan

In August 1949 the Japan Bible Society opened a depot in Osaka under the direction of Mr. J. K. Yamamura, who had formerly been on the staff of the Bible Society before the war.

The report up to the end of November shows that the circulation has gone up rapidly from this depot: Bibles from 31 in September to 268 in November, Testaments from 804 in September to 2,190 in November and Gospels from 1,240 in September to 6,735 in November. Opportunities continue great for the circulation of the Scriptures in Japan.

ANY CHURCH CAN DO THIS

On this page, from time to time, will

appear suggestions and news items designated to help churches in their programs to emphasize the growing responsibility that devolves upon American Christians to get the Bible effectively distributed throughout the world. The editors solicit reports from the churches for this page.

The Junior High Boys Take Over

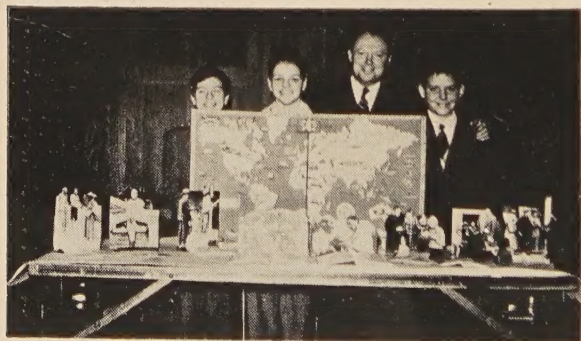
There is no way to stimulate and sustain interest in a Sunday School than to emphasize the place and influence of the Bible

BY RUSSELL ANDRESS

LAST FALL I discovered that Sunday-school teaching, besides its main purpose of winning children to Christ and preparing them for the Christian life, can also teach the teacher a great deal and in the process be great fun.

I had just taken charge of the class. They were Junior High boys—I don't need to say any more. The people in charge of our curriculum handed me a brand-new course, just off the press, it was appropriately enough entitled "Your Bible."

After three months of the best teaching I could give my boys, who conscientiously accepted and worked on their assignments, together with extra Saturday sessions to organize the class and have fun together, we started in on one of the projects proposed for the lesson series—a Bible exhibit. Several weeks in advance of the big day, which was Bible Sunday, a note was included in the church calendar asking for old family Bibles or Bibles with an interesting history—maybe Bibles in foreign tongues—which might be included in the exhibit. There was a good response; and I met the boys at the church the day before Bible Sunday, where we spent several hours setting up our tables, practising our presentations; and on Sunday morning getting our hands all inked up, running off information sheets to be handed to all visitors.



Pastor L. B. Moseley of the First Baptist Church of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and his three helpers, Jimmy Stinson, Danny Se Caur and Ralph Nichol

Most of the grades of the Sunday school were present for our big moment when we had charge of the assembly and worship period. The piano soloist was a blind girl from the Western Pennsylvania School for the Blind, who are neighbors of our church. There was, by the way, among the Bibles exhibited one of the twenty volumes that comprise the Bible in Braille. The whole congregation was invited to see the exhibit and observe the demonstration of both writing and reading Braille by the students of the school for the blind.

There were three exhibits, one assigned to each of the boys. One was of old and unusual Bibles; some from our church homes, and some loaned by the American Bible Society. Another exhibit, also secured from the American Bible Society, explained the history of our King James English Bible. It consisted of facsimile pages of all the English versions from Tyndale's New Testament of 1525 to the King James of 1611. The third was a table full of stout little cutouts explaining the manifold work of the American Bible Society in helping translators prepare the Bible in different languages, publishing the Bible, distributing it and encouraging people to use it.

The church people flocked around the tables. Such numbers that Jimmy, Danny and Ralph had their hands full, telling their stories.

The climax came at night. The three boys were present as "after-dinner speakers" at the Young Adult Supper Club, meeting at 6 o'clock. Each one responded briefly to the toastmaster's introduction. After the dinner an address followed by a discussion was given by Secretary Stifler of the American Bible Society, and following adjournment the boys were again swamped with interested spectators who wanted to hear the story of their exhibits.

It was a case of two-way education. What it will mean for Jimmy Stinson, Danny Se Caur and Ralph Nichol, who can ever measure? We learned together and scores of others picked up information and new interest in the Bible that will always stand us in good stead.

The Greek Army Receives Its Scriptures

In a letter from the Commanding General Papagos, gratefully acknowledging the receipt of Scriptures supplied by the Society and enclosing chaplains' reports from which we quote below, the General also says: "I hereby inform you that during the coming year . . . we shall need another 50,000 copies. With this number we hope to supply the new recruits of 1950 with New Testaments to the glory of Our Lord, for their salvation and that of our dear country."

Readers of the *Bible Society Record* will recall that General Perivoliotis of the Greek Army wrote the American Bible Society requesting copies of the Greek New Testament to be presented to his men, stipulating that they were to become the personal possession of each man upon his discharge from the service. General Perivoliotis' request was granted. The Bible Society during the past year supplied the Greek Army with 133,500 New Testaments, and now the reports of the distribution of these sacred volumes are coming through. We quote from six of the reports of those who conducted the distribution:

"We ourselves on our visits handed out about 1000 copies of the New Testament after we explained in a special sermon the invaluable worth of the Holy Bible. Indescribable was the joy of our men for this present."

"... With much joy and enthusiasm our Army received the New Testament copies as if they received the happiness of their life. This was characteristic of the great respect they feel for the value of the contents of the Holy Bible. The day after the distribution I saw to my satisfaction the officers and men almost as a man in their tents and under the trees absorbed in the study of the Holy Bible and discussing it with great respect."

"... I was deeply moved by the following experience: as I was walking along the trenches I observed that all men except the outposts sitting in their machine-gun nests were reading the New Testaments with such interest that they did not raise their heads to see who was passing by."

"... Their soul was strengthened immensely when the New Testament copies were distributed to them. They received them with extreme joy."

"... During the last month some copies of the New Testament were distributed to the officers and men as a present of the American Bible Society. The copies were distributed by ourselves down to the last soldier after a sermon in which the source, purpose and loftiness of ideas were stressed, as well as the Bible's power to dissipate souls. The systematic and respectful reading of this kind of books was advised.

The joy and enthusiasm of getting a book of such importance were characteristic. From successive meetings with our soldiers I am convinced that most of them are studying the New Testament every day and that they are trying to comply with its contents."

"... Our officers and men received this divine present with great enthusiasm and respect and immediately formed groups for its study."

In its issue of October 17, 1949 the Greek newspaper *Vradini* reported that one of the Grammos heroes, Ioannis Antoniou from Leptokaria, was in the Hospital Psykhiko with seven wounds, having escaped death by a real miracle. A mortar bomb splinter would have likely entered his heart, had it not been stopped by a copy of the New Testament placed in the left pocket of his shirt. He did not himself know the danger he had gone through until his fellow soldiers, Demetrios Merelidis and Sediropoulos Semeon, visited him. Merelidis opened his Bible and read some extracts to him.

Antoniou broke in and said, "I always keep a Bible with me"; and as he spoke he took his Testament out of his sack.

Merelidis, who had a look at the little volume, saw to his surprise a slit on the outer cover. He opened the Testament and found in it a small splinter.

"Where did you have the Bible when you were wounded?"

"In my pocket."

"Which pocket?"

"In the left pocket of my shirt."

When Antoniou saw the splinter he simply said, "The Lord gave us the Holy Bible to save our souls. The Bible now saved my life"—very simple words of a Greek villager, showing his faith in religion and proving that the greater factor of the glory of the Greek Army is reverence.

Then Antoniou asked on what page the splinter had stopped. On examination it was found that it was a page of the Acts of the Apostles, and it read: "The God whom in your ignorance you worship I came to preach, because we live, move and exist in Him." (See Acts 17:23-28)

Ioannis Antoniou was wounded at Tserno Grammos on August 28 and had four wounds on the hands and body by machine gun. One mortar bomb was also exploded near him and a splinter hit the Testament.

Antoniou said, "I have only one wish: that my compatriots should be drawn to our religion in order to know Christ, who is always willing to save us as individuals, as a family and as a nation."



A crowd, including many children, collect to listen



A boy reaches for literature as Colporteur Moses Li tries to interest a more obdurate Chinese at right



Colporteur Shih Hao-Yi, a refugee from the north, offers his Gospels to fruit and vegetable vendors on the Bund

Many Bible classes are held in all sections of the country



The Work C

BASED on a telegram received on December 27, 1949 from Secretary Mortensen in Shanghai, the news comes that the China Bible House was at that time printing 12,000 whole Chinese Bibles on imported paper and that Mr. A. W. Marthinson, the Agent for Mongolia, located at Lanchow, had just returned with the Bible Van (see articles in the December 1949 and January 1950 issues of the *Bible Society Record*) to Lanchow, with three tons of Scriptures he had been able to bring from Sian.

From an earlier letter (November 19, 1949) Secretary T. H. Lin, located at Chungking, writes in his quaint English: "We do not have enough Bibles to meet the hungering souls. For instance, a Chinese pastor came to call on me yesterday from the country. He says he wishes to buy 100 Chinese Bibles. Knowing that we are not able to let him have even a single copy, he left with a most discouraging heart. But I told him we would reserve so much to him when our fresh stock arrives from Hongkong.

"Dr. Marcus Chen, president of Chungking Seminary, tells me the other day that he needs another 100 Reference Bibles for his students. Of course, there is no way to even let him have one. However, we have stock of Chinese New Testaments and English Bibles and New Testaments, as well as large stock of Portions here in Chungking."





Coolies gather to listen. The two Chinese characters, reading from right to left at left of "Shanghai City," mean "Shanghai"



Moses Li has studied in Methodist, Lutheran and Anglican mission schools. He plans to go as an evangelist up near Tibet. Note Bund buildings in background

es in China

While he was still in China last year the Department of State received the following telegram from its Ambassador at Nanking:

"Now that thinking Chinese are coming under the influence of dynamic new ideologies, rather than that of their ancient religions, the wide circulation of the Christian Scriptures in whole or in part can have incalculable value. In view of impoverishment resulting from years of devastating war, the supply of these should be on the most generous terms possible. From personal knowledge of the activities of China Bible House I can testify to the energy and efficiency with which it is attempting to serve this cause.

Ambassador J. Leighton Stuart"



A wounded Nationalist soldier, with arm in sling, examines the Scriptures offered by Colporteur Moses Li

The upper six pictures were taken on a dock used by poor Chinese. Three Bible Society colporteurs unfurl one of their evangelistic posters and hold a small service of singing, preaching and Scripture distribution



Old and young carry their Bibles to church

Workers study their Bibles during rest periods



A New Kind of Christian Conference

For the first time in Guatemala a large group of both nationals and missionaries came together to discuss the common problems involved in the translation and distribution of the Scriptures in their area. This is of the essence of the work of the American Bible Society, one of whose chief concerns is to aid translators so that the Scriptures may be more effectively distributed and used

BY MARGARET T. HILLS

SHOULD evangelistic campaigns be conducted during fiestas? Should evangelists be paid? Are literacy campaigns worth while? How do nationals feel about foreign missionaries? All these questions, and more, were thrashed out in Guatemala City during the mornings of November 21 through 25 by a large group of missionaries and Christian national workers, while the afternoons were spent with the National Indian Institute in discussion of orthographies for several of the languages of Guatemala.

Men and women of long experience in Bible translation and mission work, like Dr. and Mrs. Paul Burgess, Carl Malmstrom, Mr. and Mrs. H. Dudley Peck, Mr. and Mrs. William Sedat and Mr. and Mrs. Newberry Cox, with other, newer missionaries, met with nationals representing Christian work in the following language areas: Quiché, Ixil, Cakchiquel, Mam, Kekchi, Kanjobal, Jacalteco, Chuj, Aguacatan and Chorti.

Many problems were first discussed in separate groups, using a particular language, with the summary of such discussions later reported to the whole conference, in which Spanish was used exclusively. Keenly interested in all the discussions and making valuable contributions were Secretary and Mrs. Eugene Nida, who are now on a trip through Latin

America working on various linguistic and translation problems.

It was agreed that church workers, which include pastors, evangelists, elders, deacons, deaconesses and all believers, should be well enough acquainted with the Bible to know the list of its sixty-six books—the principal doctrines of value in each book for daily living; and that they should have developed some skill in applying these Bible truths to their daily life. Emphasis was placed on the necessity for prayer and consecration to the work of winning souls and the long-term value of the example of a firm and vigorous personal faith shown in one's everyday life. It was agreed that it was very important for students at Bible schools to be well trained in the exact native terms used for expressing spiritual truths, so that they could more effectively carry the message back to their respective tribes. Both Indian and foreigner receive new appreciation of the value and importance of preaching, teaching and Bible-reading in the native languages. They also came to see the advantages and to understand the process of literacy campaigns and the need for preparing adequate supplementary reading for both missionary and Indian alike. All came away from the conference with new visions of their respective responsibilities.

The Guatemala Conference. Sixty-four nationals and missionaries from ten linguistic areas spend four fruitful days seeking out the solutions that shall lead to a better knowledge of God's Word for their daily living



The conference would not have been possible without the enthusiastic cooperation of the Central American Mission, which kindly arranged to house the attendants in the Central American Bible Institute, and leased Edward Sywulka, whose help in making the arrangements contributed greatly to its success. Working together and eating native food (beans, rice

and tortillas) together brought both groups into closer understanding of attitudes and problems. It was the first such conference ever held in Guatemala, and many attending expressed the hope that it was only the beginning of a long series. And all of this should lead to more effective use and distribution of the Scriptures in both Spanish and the Indian languages.

She Could Not Read, But—

BY J. ALVA STAFFORD

She lived on Abram's Ridge in the mountains of Jackson County, Kentucky. When I first saw her she was about seventy-eight years old and was very regular in attendance at the Union Sunday School. She was deeply interested in hearing the Bible read and would often request certain hymns to be sung. One day her daughter told me that her mother had no Bible and was unable to buy one; and so, I gave her one provided by the American Bible Society.

Later I learned that she could not read, but that, when anyone would come to the house who could read, she always had them read to her from her precious Bible. She never tired of hearing it. Then one day, while this dear old widowed grandmother was away visiting a sick neighbor, her little two-room mountain cabin burned down and everything she had was destroyed.

On my next visit to the Sunday school she was there as usual, but seemed very sad. She told me about the fire and her loss, but she seemed much more distressed over the loss of her Bible than over everything else combined. I gave her a small sum of money and another Bible, and neighbors and friends did what they could to help her restore the loss, considering their very limited ability and means. She was soon established in another two-room cabin and continued to attend the Union Sunday School regularly, regardless of her advanced age and failing health.

Her last few months upon earth were spent in her bed, and she finally succumbed to an incurable disease. During this long illness it was my privilege, together with other members of my family, to make frequent visits to her home; and she would always request that we read to her from her Bible, sing some hymns and have prayer. It was at one of these services that she confessed her faith in Jesus as her personal Saviour. From that time forward she had no fear of death, and a sweet peace dwelt in her soul. She was very fond of the twenty-third Psalm, and never tired of hearing the third chapter of John and parts of Matthew. Revelation 20:11-15 and 21-22 were very precious to her because they described her heavenly home.

On the day when I last went to visit her, she had no one. Her brother, who lived near by, told me that she had "gone to be with Jesus in her home over there."

I never learned until a few weeks ago that she had died clasping her precious Bible to her bosom, after requesting that it be buried with her. This dear old lady of the mountains could not read, but she could hear, believe and love God's Word. She found it precious both in life and in death, for through it she had found Jesus and life eternal.

Note: Mr. Stafford is a worker in the American Sunday School Union, which conducts pioneer Sunday schools in neglected areas throughout our land. The American Bible Society heartily cooperates in supplying Scriptures for their work.

(Continued from page 34)

quired. Sheets will be sent to any friends who will use the Seals to enlist support of the American Bible Society.

Through the centuries the Bible has been the "Hope of All."

When Jesus ministered to the despair of the two men on the road to Emmaus, he first opened to them the Scriptures. A little later they recognized their Lord, and the two who had been walking home in despair hastened back to the city to proclaim the risen Christ. That experience can and is happening now. People in sorrow, hunger, bewilderment, despair and doubt—whatever their condition—find hope as the Scriptures are opened to them. Regardless of a person's language, education, race or nation, the Bible will speak to him. For the world the Bible is the "Hope of All" and for every individual it is "The Book to Live By."

The number of people in this troubled world who have the Bible will be determined in large measure by the number in the United States who give to supply the Scriptures. We trust every reader will pray for a generous response to the Society's twelfth annual Seal appeal.

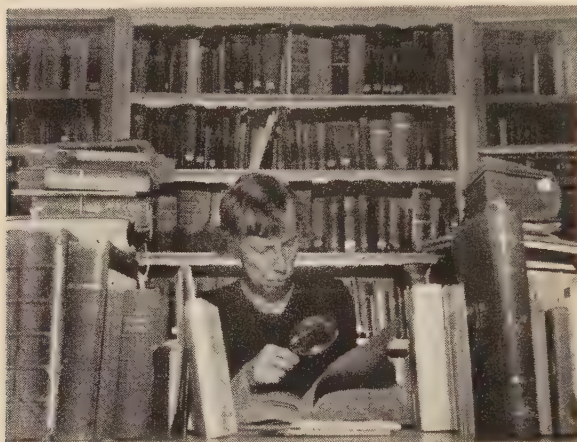


Red Stamp

Blue Stamp

The Bible House Librarian Reports

THERE is no other library in the land just like that of the American Bible Society, housed on the beautiful second floor of the Bible House. It contains nothing but Scriptures—either Bibles or parts of Bibles. The librarian reports that at the close of the year these totaled 17,514 volumes. There were 935 languages included, eleven new ones having been added during the year. They are: Kalanga, Kasem, Bami-leke, Betul, Gondi, Bunan Lahuli, Manchad Lahuli, Anal Chin, Hula, Loma, Binandere and Tarascan. All told, there were 436 newly acquired volumes added to the collection during 1949.



Miss Margaret T. Hills, librarian at the Bible House, busy cataloguing newly acquired Scripture volumes from distant lands

The library is a busy spot. How often rings the telephone as inquirers ask information about old Bibles, facts about the Bible and quotations from the Bible! There were 358 recorded such calls in 1949. Typewriters are constantly clicking out letters in answer to similar questions submitted by mail.

There were 1,015 registered visitors during 1949. Many of these came in for help in some scholarly project. Others came in groups—of which there were 27 during the year. They included classes from Sunday schools, groups from young people's and other Church organizations, theological seminaries and others.

Among the workers sits Mr. Robert Lundgren, whose time is largely given to reading proof of Scriptures in new and strange languages that are in the process of printing, some of them being the first printing ever done in languages newly reduced to writing by devoted missionaries.

When he is not toiling with missionaries over their translation problems in some far land, Secretary for Translations, Eugene A. Nida, may be found in his own corner of this busy spot, checking a manuscript that has arrived at the Bible House.

This picture was taken at 3 a.m., Dec. 11, 1949



ROBERT B. ALEXANDER is a preacher to emulate. He believes in the centrality of Bible reading for his people. With the help of his capable wife he has sponsored readings of the entire New Testament at a single service ten times since 1937 in the rural parishes he has served in Kansas. The service last Bible Sunday was held at the little church at Arma. Seventy-two readers participated and were drawn from the Mulberry, Arma, Arcadia and Englevalle churches and smaller communities round about.

Mr. Alexander has through the years developed a type of setting and program that lend dignity and impressiveness to his services, which have been carried out with such skill and effectiveness as to draw to the scene on more than one occasion the camera men of picture newspapers and magazines.

At Arma on December 11 the service began at two in the morning, when a corps of twenty men from the Arma church served a bounteous breakfast at cost to all comers. Forty minutes later came the choir processional, and the call to worship with the actual reading commencing at three o'clock. The picture at the top shows the rainbow motif and the gowns worn by the readers.

The service continued for eighteen hours. At the close of the reading a service of dedication of the gifts made to the American Bible Society for worldwide distribution of the Scriptures was held.

The picture below was taken as Mrs. Chloe Stanton of the Mulberry Church presented to pastor Alexander the Bible donated by the American Bible Society for use during the reading and for the pulpit of the Arma Church.



MEMBERS' FORUM

Annual Membership in the Society is secured through gift of \$5 or more for the carrying on of its work. The Society also provides for Life Membership, Life Directorship and Memorial Membership. Particulars will be sent on request. The editors welcome correspondence from members and devote this page in each issue to that purpose.]

From Miami, Oklahoma:

Enclosed is \$40 for Bibles and Testaments for Japan. This is the Lord's money. I planned it for my church, but after reading the *Record* I decided to let it go for Japan.

From Ardmore, Pennsylvania:

As a result of my father's sudden passing last July I am inheriting some funds which I wish to tithe. I have been in prayer about this, for I wish to place this money where God would have me do so. I feel infinite leading to give to the American Bible Society, and am now very happy to enclose my check for \$50. If it is possible to earmark this contribution, I would like it to be used in bringing the New Testament to the Russians behind the Iron Curtain. If this is not possible, then to the peoples of countries now invaded by Communists, such as China and the European countries bordering Russia. I have had the joy of giving you annual contributions, but they have been small. I'm so glad I can now give you more.

From La Crosse, Wisconsin:

Inclosed is a bank draft for \$500. This money you can use without any string to it, as you know best where to use it.

I do it this way instead of taking out an annuity agreement, as this will be my tithe to the Lord. He has blessed me greatly and I don't know of a better place to put the money for the good of humanity.

From Watertown, New York:

I would like to take out an annuity agreement with the American Bible Society, but this will need to be done at a later date. I am a widow. Years ago I was left alone with little children and without funds to care for them. With my ceaseless work I was able to give them what other children had. I now have a home which I have paid for, but I still need to work.

One time I had a saintly mother. She was a country girl who was never sent to Sunday school and did not have a Bible. After her being married for some time, an agent came to her home selling Bibles. Mother told him she did not have one, but had no money to buy one. The agent said he had orders to

give people a Bible if they wanted one and had no money to buy a copy. He gave my mother a very nice leather-bound Bible, which is my greatest treasure today. A few years later my mother fell ill and knew she could not live. Her Bible was a great comfort to her. And I do hope to be able to make a gift to the American Bible Society at a later time, that others may have a Bible to comfort them as my mother's comforted her.

From Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania:

Here is a little secret from which Sandra (aged 10) and I have had so much pleasure. We have decided to save dimes for Bibles, and you would be surprised how quickly the dimes collect. I do believe they are teaming up against us and coming back in the form of change where they wouldn't otherwise. Though I need a dime and do not have two nickels, I have to break a quarter to get it; and presto!—there is another dime for Bibles. Oh, its lots of fun, and surprising how fast they accumulate. I wish I could whisper in your ear just how much I now have, but that will be in the next letter I am planning.

From Whittier, California:

... When my subscription to the *Record* ran out, it was so difficult to send money even for renewal. ... Now, however, I have a dollar which with much joy I am enclosing. I cannot think of anything that would give me such happiness as to be able to send a bill with two or even three ciphers in its corner instead of the tiny little *one*.

It is amazing beyond words, the work you are doing. Truly, you are the arms of the Church; and without you, how could the Church reach out into unknown places to give to them, each in his own language, the glorious story of God's everlasting love?

From Monroe, Iowa:

I am enclosing our check for \$25. I am sorry it could not be multiplied by one hundred in this time of great need, when there are appeals in nearly every mail that wring one's heart.

I am not suggesting where it should be applied; not because it is too small a sum to matter, for I well know that a single Gospel directed by the Holy Spirit may make an eternity of difference; I leave it to your discretion and the Spirit's guidance to apply it where it will do the most good.

From Gresham, Wisconsin:

Enclosed is \$1 to be used as you wish for Bibles or parts thereof for whatever country you feel needs them most. May God bless your work! I will send more as I can, from time to time. I am a disabled soldier and of limited income, or pension; not able to work, but I want to share in the spreading of the Gospel, even if in a small way.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Bible Society Record

A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution and Use of the Holy Scriptures

Editors: THE SECRETARIES

Address correspondence to the
Managing Editor

FRANCIS CARR STIFLER

450 Park Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.



Vol. 95 MARCH 1950 No. 3

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

FOR MARCH

Day	Book	Chapter	Day	Book	Chapter
1	Isaiah	26	17	Mark	14
2	Isaiah	35	18	Mark	15
3	Isaiah	43	19	Sunday, Mark	16
4	Mark	1	20	Luke	2:41-52
5	Sunday, Mark	2	21	John	6:1-21
6	Mark	3	22	John	6:22-46
7	Mark	4	23	John	6:47-71
8	Mark	5	24	Colossians	4
9	Mark	6	25	Luke	1:26-56
10	Mark	7	26	Sunday, Galatians	5
11	Mark	8	27	Matthew	12:1-30
12	Sunday, Mark	9	28	Matthew	12:31-50
13	Mark	10	29	Matthew	13:1-23
14	Mark	11	30	Matthew	13:24-44
15	Mark	12	31	Matthew	13:45-58
16	Mark	13			

★ ★

The Tucker Building

Fresh honors have come to Rev. Hugh C. Tucker, D.D., now in his 93d year, who served as the Society's Secretary in Brazil from 1887 to 1934. Dr. Tucker is here shown (at right) untying the Brazilian and American ribbons as the doors are opened for the dedication of the newly built "Tucker Building," home of the People's Central Institute in Rio de Janeiro. The Institute had its origin in 1906 with the reading of the New Testament by a colporteur of the American Bible Society to a group of his fellow laborers in a slum district of the city of Rio de Janeiro. Most of the men were illiterate, but their interest spread in the



community. Dr. and Mrs. Tucker kept their interest alive until a room for their meeting was found. In answer to continued prayers funds were supplied by a friend to rent more quarters, and the work expanded.

The new Tucker Building, dedicated on November 27, 1949, was paid for largely through gifts from Rio citizens. Its cost exceeded \$50,000, and many types of Christian service are carried on in its three floors comprising twenty-eight rooms. In the foreground with Dr. Tucker is Dr. Clemente Mariani, Federal Minister of Education. The dedication ceremony was attended by over 7,000 people.

★ ★

A New Gospel for Liberia

Loma is the name of a language spoken by a group of people who live in Liberia. It is one of the most recent to receive any part of the Scriptures. The language was put into written form and the translation of the Gospel of Mark prepared by Rev. Wesley Sadler of the American Lutheran Mission. The American Bible Society printed an edition of 2,000 copies. A fuller account of the translation and of the people for whom it was made will appear in a forthcoming issue of the *Record*.

★ ★

Chaplain Charles M. Buck, of the Johnson Air Base, writes:

We observed Sunday, December 11, 1949 as Universal Bible Sunday here at the Base Chapel at Johnson Air Base in Japan. We took up a special offering for your Society. The response was wonderful and the offering amounted to \$110. Enclosed you will find a bank draft for this amount. The materials which we or-

dered from you to be used in connection with Universal Bible Sunday arrived sometime ago, and we put them to good use. Please send us 500 'Daily Bible Readings' for 1950 as soon as you can.

★ ★

Chaplain Cecil E. Harvey writes from the Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas:

Expressing our thanks on paper or with words is inadequate when addressed to your fine Society. I have heard so many tributes from chaplains in the Service, and I know by personal experience about the wonderful way you folks distribute the Scriptures around the world.

Well, we secured a Bible display from your store in Dallas and had a picture made of it in the chapel. We are giving the offering from the services yesterday to the Society.

★ ★

January Meeting of the Board

A meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and thirty-fourth year was held at the Bible House, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, on Thursday, January 5, 1950, at 3:30 p.m., President Daniel Burke, LL.D., in the Chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Edward H. Hume, M.D.

The Rev. Dr. J. S. Bonnell was transferred from the Versions Committee to the Committee on Educational Publicity.

The theme "The Bible—A Light and a Guide" was adopted for Worldwide Bible Reading and Universal Bible Sunday 1950.

Bible Reading lists for 1950 were distributed.

Authorization was given for repairing the heating system in the Tokyo Bible House.

The Board authorized a grant of 1,000 copies of the Gospel of Mark in Loma to the American Lutheran Mission, Monrovia, Liberia, on the Sale and Distribution Plan.

A grant of 300 Bibles in Nauru was also made to the London Missionary Society on Nauru Island, Central Pacific, for distribution on the Sale and Distribution Plan.

It was reported that the Society had presented to the Shah of Iran, while on his recent visit to the United States, a beautiful Bible bound in green morocco and that a letter of deep appreciation for this gift had been received from the Shah.

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New York City 22—Bible House, 450 Park Avenue.
Georgia—85 Walton St.
Illinois—35 E. Wacker Drive.
Texas—1914 Main St.
San Francisco 2, California—224 McAllister St.
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We are glad you are a member of our Bible Society family. We wish we could write you a personal letter, but feel certain you would rather have us apply our efforts more fully in sending out Bibles.

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RECEIPT

➔
AND
MEMBERSHIP
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AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

This is to certify that a gift of \$.....
extends an annual Active Membership to

Your Name

Date.....

Secretary

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

(Published 10 times a year.)

Three months' time is required to add a new name.

Please notify us if you do not receive your RECORD or if you change your address.

500,000 in '50

IF the Bible Society is to carry forward its planned 1950 program of supplying Scriptures to the spiritually hungry of the world, 500,000 annual members are needed now.

There are 250,000 copies of the *Record* sent out each month. If each person who receives the *Record* will enroll himself and one other person, the goal of 500,000 mem-

bers which the Society has been striving for since February 1948 will be reached.

Pictured above is one side of the Society's new gift acknowledgment folder with self-contained receipt and Active or Service Membership card. It is designed to say a friendly but economical "thank you." Will you help use 500,000 of these in '50?

MAIL THE COUPON TODAY!

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY (Membership Department)
450 Park Avenue, New York 22, N.Y.

Please enroll me as an Active (\$5)....., Service (\$10)....., Sustaining (\$25).....,
Family (\$50)....., National Women's Club (\$50)....., Ten Thousand Business Men's
Club (\$100)..... My check is attached.

I enlist as a worker to secure additional members for the Society. You may send me
.....sets of materials (membership application blanks, leaflet "The Meaning of Member-
ship" and a leaflet describing the needs).

Name.....
(Please print)

Address.....

City..... State.....